

**SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT
WATER SUPPLY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

May 1, 2023

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE WATER SUPPLY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THE CEDAR ROOM OF THE SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT AT 1975 FIELD ROAD, SECHELT, BC.

PRESENT:	Chair	V. Macfarlane
	Vice-Chair	J. Bell
	Members	B. Fielding S. Fitchell (online) M. Hennessy S. Leech B. Thicke
	Regrets	G. Moore K. Freemantle L. Chivers
ALSO PRESENT:		
(Non-voting)	Manager, Strategic Initiatives Manager, Communications and Engagement Strategic Planning Coordinator/Recorder Water Sustainability Coordinator Director, Area A Director, Area D Director, Area E Alternate Director, District of Sechelt	M. Edbrooke A. Buckley S. Rempel G. Starsage L. Lee K. Backs D. McMahon J. Henderson (in part)

CALL TO ORDER 3:40 p.m.

AGENDA The agenda was adopted as presented.

MINUTES

The Water Supply Advisory Committee discussed the process of making recommendations to the Board. A question was asked regarding the next steps for the Water Strategy, based on the minutes.

Recommendation No. 1 *Water Supply Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of March 9, 2023*

The Water Supply Advisory Committee recommended that the Water Supply Advisory Committee meeting minutes of March 6, 2023 be received.

REPORTS

Manager, Communications and Engagement, introduced himself, and opened the floor for questions regarding water communications for 2023.

Discussion included the following:

- Water conservation mailouts, high water user mailouts and newspaper ads.
- WASAC members noted that the community is looking for certainty on stage calling through clear numbers, graphs and days of water left. Staff noted there are many variables the SCRD cannot reliably predict stages. The Chapman Water System is impacted by weather and precipitation, and resulting water use trends.
- Discussion around the Drought Response Plan, and each communication plan for each Stage as drought progresses.
- WASAC encouraged staff to connect with people at a community level, through garden clubs, farmers markets, and community groups. Staff noted that the SCRD connects regularly with community groups.
- Discussion on utility bills and showing all residents how much water they are using through that tool. Staff noted that this is not possible until all meters are installed.
- Discussion on the goals of water conservation communications, encouraging people to change their relationship with the drinking water we do have and how we use it. Partnerships with garden centres, rain barrel programs, and greywater discussed.

Water Sustainability Coordinator presented the Draft Water Efficiency Plan for information and discussion.

Presentation included the following:

- The status quo of water use is shifting, the climate is changing.
- SCRD has water supply issues, and no single intervention will fix the complex problem. A diverse range of actions from both the corporate and the public level are necessary.
- Residents are relating to water in new ways. Increased water knowledge, monthly water use update subscribers, people are valuing water more.

Discussion included the following:

- WASAC found presentation and report informative, shows the complexity of the problem we are facing.
- Discussion on development in the region, possibilities and restraints of requiring rainwater tanks, stormwater management, and greywater reuse. Challenges such as:
 - Smaller lot sizes may be unable to accommodate large cisterns, stormwater management not SCRD jurisdiction, amendment to BC Building Code required for grey water reuse.
- Regional District needs to take action and increase water supply.
- Discussion on the targets, goals and how success will be measured. Suggest including costs of each initiative, and prioritizing.
- Question regarding what is being done for home gardeners and commercial farms, as well as indoor water use reduction.
- Discussion on water meters and potential in the future for volumetric billing.

- Need for targets and set start dates. Staff explained the Water Efficiency Plan does not include the operational details that would be included in a project work plan, while some actions are smaller and ongoing.
- Incorporate information regarding the changing status quo of water availability into the Water Efficiency Plan.
- The Water Efficiency Plan will be brought to the Board for their consideration.

Recommendation No. 2 *Draft Water Efficiency Plan*

The Water Supply Advisory Committee recommended that the Sunshine Coast Regional District Board endorse the Water Efficiency Plan before the end of 2023.

NEXT MEETING July 10, 2023, 3:30 p.m. online via Zoom

ADJOURNMENT 5:42 p.m.